Laws to Curb Video piracy and Violation of Copyright Act

5255. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have received a spate of representations to frams laws to curb video piracy and violation of the Copyright Act;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether the film industry have been affected at large due to pirated cassettes entering the country through Mafias; and

(d) if so, what immediate steps would be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The film industry has from time to time been representing against the losses suffered due to video/ cable piracy. the responsibility for enforcing the Copyright Act 1957 rests with the policy authorities under the State Governments/Union Territory Administration. The Copyright Act has been amended to bring it in consonance with the development in the modern technology and making the penal provisions more stringent. During the last few years the Central Government has taken various steps to improve the enforcement of the Act. These measures include setting up of a Copyright Advisory Council for reviewing the progress of the enforcement of the Act periodically and to advise the Government regarding measures for improving the enforcement of the Act, arranging training/seminars for the policy officers and impressing upon the State Government to create special cells to deal with Copyright offences; to designate nodal points with which professional or industry associations could liaise. Most of the State Governments have set up special cells.

The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 1994 inter-alia provides for, setting up of a separate Society for Copyright Regulation of Indian producers of Films and Television (SCRIPT). This society has set up special wings to fight piracy and work in close interaction with the police. Representations from the film industry regarding audio- visual piracy has also been referred to the Central Board of Excise and Customs for corrective action.